IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 13, 1827.

Mr. Reed, from the Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of James Moore, of Mississippi, made the following

REPORT:

That it appears to the satisfaction of the Committee, by the petition and affidavit of the said James Moore, and by the corroborating testimony of one of the committee, (who has some knowledge upon the subject) that the petitioner and the other heirs of Alexander Moore, deceased, have claims to land in West Florida, by virtue of British grants, issued from the Government of West Florida while it was a British province; that the said Alexander Moore, in his lifetime, became a Spanish subject, after the conquest of Florida by the Spanish arms, and continued so until the time of his death; and that the said lands, or some of them so claimed, were settled and cultivated during the continuance of the British Government in West Florida. ther appears that the original patents and other evidences of title to the lands so claimed, came into the possession of the said James Moore after the death of his father, as one of his heirs at law; and that the said patents and other evidences of title were, in due time, transmitted by the said James Moore, to be laid before the Board of Commissioners for the adjustment of land titles in West Florida, but were lost at sea, which accident prevented their being presented to and acted upon by the said Board in due season, during the existence of said Commission. It farther appears that the British and Spanish archives relating to lands in Florida have been transmitted to the Commissions there, and are not now in any of the Departments at the seat of Government in this city. The committee are of opinion, under these circumstances, that the said petitioner and the other heirs of Alexander Moore, deceased, have a well founded claim upon Congress to have their titles investigated and decided upon, and have, therefore, instructed me to report a bill accordingly; which is herewith presented.

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